WINDOWS 95 SHOWCASE

A catalogue of products for Microsoft Windows 95

Volume 1 Published by ACP Computer Publications

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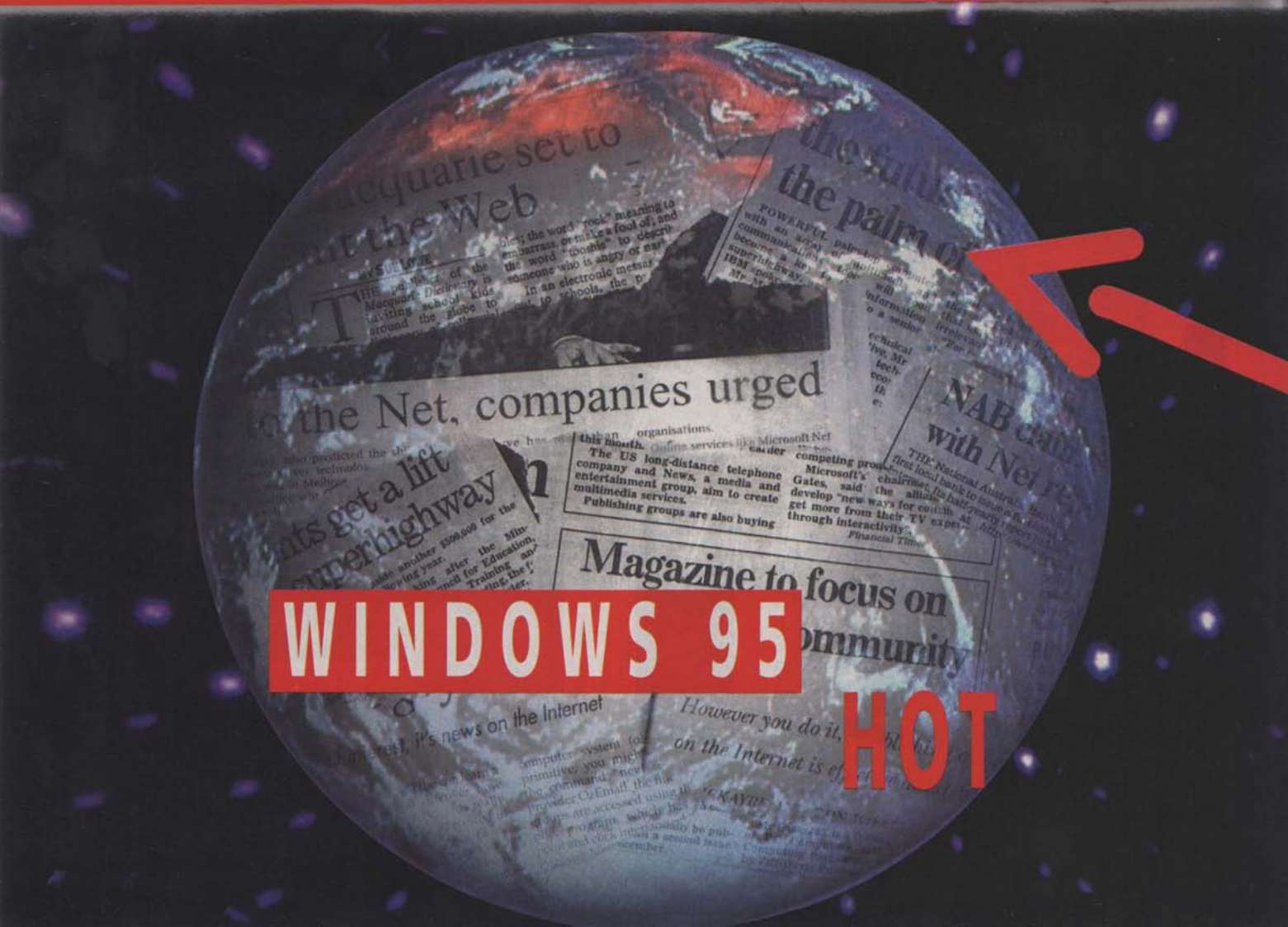
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Magazine to focus on
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HOT

Welcome TO THE Windows 95 REVOLUTION

Microsoft has worked hard to ensure Windows 95 will work with existing hardware and Windows 3.1-based software. But to make the most of the new operating system, you'll want to invest in all-new 32-bit Windows 95-based applications. And to make it easier to deal with troublesome hardware, you'll also be on the lookout for the new PCs, printers, modems and other hardware devices that comply with the new Plug-and-Play standard used by Windows 95.

So what does this new breed of hardware and software products *really* offer? We surveyed the top software developers to get the lowdown on their Windows 95 programs. We also looked at the first wave of Plug-and-Play peripherals, many of which are already available, to see how they will combine with the applications to change the way we work.

Every major software vendor we talked to told us that releasing a Windows 95 version is at the top of this year's to-do list. Most have committed to aggressive delivery schedules, which means you can expect to see 32-bit versions of most of the mainstream business applications you already use within 90 days of Windows 95's release.

WINDOWS 95 SOFTWARE

Who's Doing What

Thirty per cent of the leading software makers we spoke to plan to ship their next versions no later than the day Windows 95 arrives. More than 70 per cent say their new versions will be on store shelves within 90 days after the new operating system is ready.

Here's what you can expect from the first wave of applications:

The suite story. The most eagerly awaited upgrades are the biggest ones: the all-in-one software suites from Lotus Development, Microsoft, and WordPerfect.

Expect a major upgrade to Microsoft Office, whose core applications, Word 6.0 and Excel 5.0, have already shipped in 32-bit versions that run on Windows NT and will run on Windows 95.

Look for Microsoft to continue its push to standardise the interface of all Office applications beyond the simple menu-and-toolbar level. And look for the new Office to be available fewer than 90 days after Windows 95 appears.

Like its rival, Lotus will use this upgrade to polish its SmartSuite interface and add major features, especially to the oldest member of the family, Ami Pro. Details of those features and when you'll see them in shrink-wrap are tightly guarded secrets — but you'll get short odds if you bet that the new SmartSuite will appear before the new Microsoft Office.

WordPerfect, which delivered the first version of PerfectOffice last November, is poised to turn around a Windows 95 version before the end of 1995. It's most likely that WordPerfect will concentrate on porting its flagship wordprocessor to 32-bit code. Don't expect a slew of new features.

Utility players. The day you install Windows 95, your favourite utilities will probably stop working. The long filenames and extended attributes in the Windows 95 file system make upgrades mandatory. Symantec has already promised that a new 32-bit, fully graphical version of the Norton Utilities will arrive the same day Windows 95 does. New versions of Norton AntiVirus are also due.

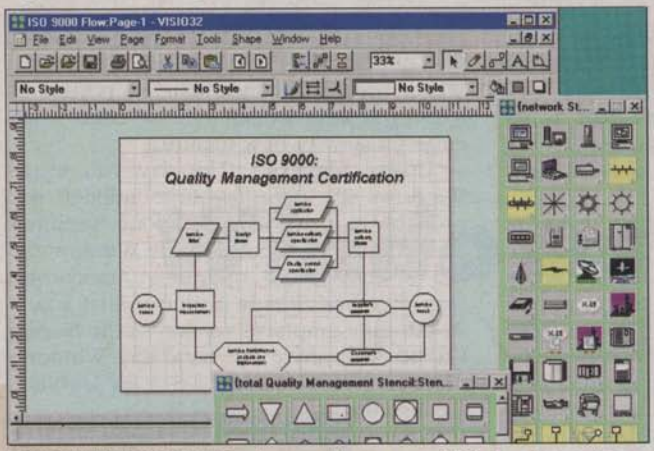
Other driver-level utilities are due for updates as well. Stac Electronics has a new 32-bit version of Stacker in the pipeline, McAfee is planning a free Windows 95 upgrade to VirusScan within 90 days of Windows 95, and even memory managers have a future after Windows 95.

NEW LOOK AND FEEL: With consistent SmartIcons, menus, InfoBoxes, and the LotusScript development language, Lotus is betting that it can deliver the most tightly integrated suite for Windows 95. The final release may look dramatically different from this early Freelance Graphics demo.

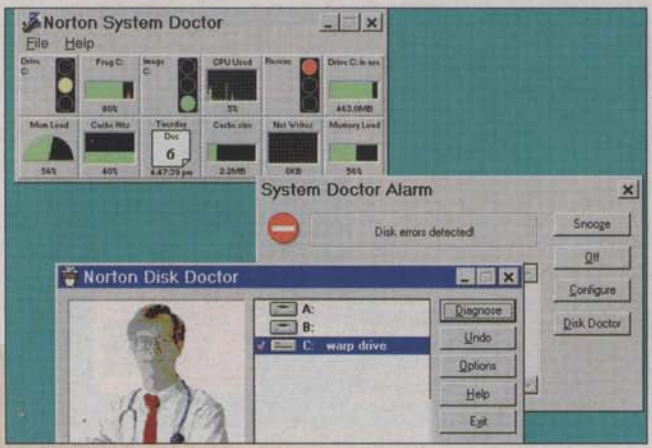
The Windows shell game is a little more confusing. It's unlikely that anyone will replace the complex Windows 95 shell; instead, Symantec is likely to update pieces of Norton Desktop and Central Point Software's PC Tools for Windows, like the first-rate Central Point File Manager, for the new era.

Other eagerly awaited programs. What are the other best-selling application vendors planning? Datastorm isn't talking about ProComm Plus, but NCSA Mosaic is in great shape. AutoDesk is unwilling to comment on what its AutoCAD plans are.

Oh, yes, Doom for Windows 95 will be available immediately.



DRAG AND DROP 95: For the past two years, Visio has been the official poster child for OLE 2.0. The 32-bit version, which should appear simultaneously with Windows 95, will be tightly integrated with the new Windows shell. In the spirit of OLE, stencil palettes can "float" anywhere on the desktop.



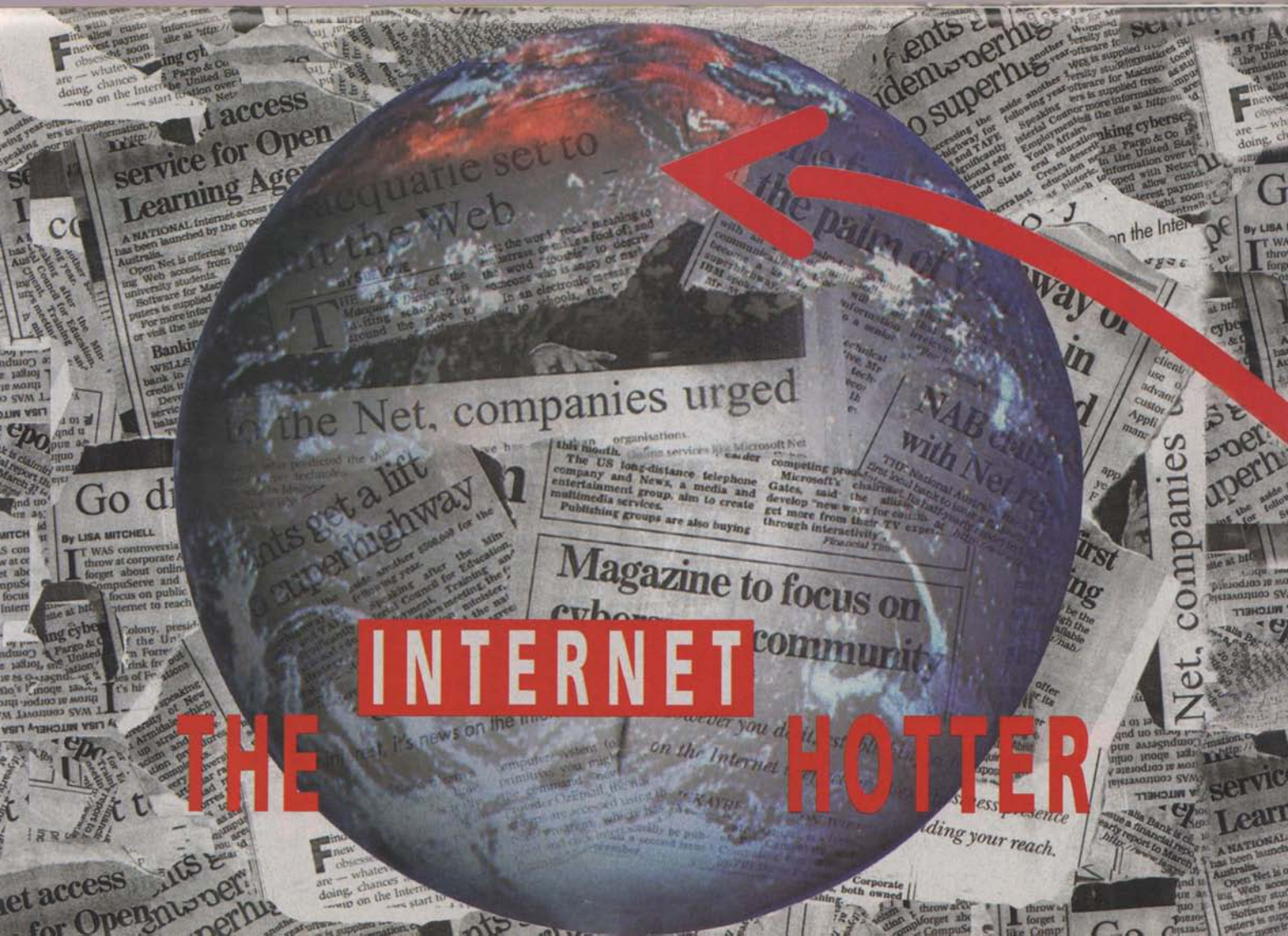
PAGING DR NORTON: A lost file is a lost file, whether it disappears 16 or 32 bits at a time. Look for the Windows 95 version of the Norton Utilities — including an updated Norton Disk Doctor and a comprehensive System Doctor — to be available the same day that Windows 95 hits the streets.

Utilities with life

There's plenty of life for utilities under Windows 95. Here are two examples:

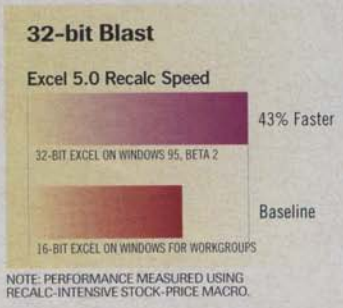
UnInstaller 3.0 is, strictly speaking, a Windows 3.1 application, but it guaranteed by MicroHelp to operate with Windows 95. And although all Window 95 versions of applications are required to come with their own uninstall function, as long as we have older Windows programs we'll need the likes of UnInstaller to get rid of all the disparate parts of those 16-bit applications that we no longer need.

Windows 95 will make life a lot easier, but don't expect an end to all problems. **First Aid 2.0 for Windows** will automatically detect and fix over 10,000 configuration problems with Windows 3.1, Windows 95 and over 70 common applications, including Microsoft Office, Lotus SmartSuite and more.


INTERNET
THE HOTTER

SOFTWARE UPGRADE PAYOFF: PROGRAMS SHOULD RUN FASTER, MULTITASK BETTER, CRASH LESS OFTEN

The first wave of Windows 95 applications should run faster and more reliably, thanks to the muscle of **32-bit code**. You'll see fewer "Out of memory" messages because Windows 95 handles **system resources** more intelligently. And Windows 95's document-centric approach takes advantage to the ubiquitous **OLE 2.0.** If you couldn't stand OLE's herky-jerky performance and endless error messages under Windows 3.1, get ready to take another look: OLE finally begins to deliver on its potential under Windows 95. **Mail and communications services** are built into the operating system, making it possible for any application to extend its reach far beyond the desktop.



32-bit code: If you see the Windows 95 logo on a new application, you can bet it's 32 bits from top to bottom. The payoff? Less swapping of memory and speedier performance, especially in CPU- intensive operations like recalculating a spreadsheet.

System resources: Some Windows 3.1 applications developed a nasty reputation for chewing up system resources and refusing to give them back, even after you quit. For all practical purposes, Windows 95 removes those barriers.

OLE 2.0: Under Windows 3.1, data sharing is a hit-or-miss proposition because of OLE's huge resource requirements and slow performance. The 32-bit OLE engine in Windows 95 is vastly improved, and our survey showed enthusiastic support for OLE in the next generation of Windows applications.

Mail and communications services: Look for simple Send Mail commands on the File menus of business-oriented applications. And the Windows 95 Telephony Application Program Interface (TAPI) will usher in a revolution in communications software. TAPI handles the dirty work of configuring modems, setting up dialing options and managing COM ports.

WINDOWS 95 SOFTWARE

The New Look

Will your next software upgrade pass the Windows 95 test? If you see the Windows 95 logo on the box, you can bet it will. Before a software vendor can earn Microsoft's blessing to use the new logo, the upgrade has to run an eight-point gauntlet covering the basics of the new interface.

Nearly all of the software companies that we talked to told us they expect their new releases to pass the test with flying colours. That remarkable display of solidarity is testimony to the selling power of the new logo; it's also a tribute to the usability benefits of the new interface.

The new, one-click Minimise, Maximise and Close buttons are part of a strategy to virtually eliminate double-clicking. Other consistent elements you can expect to see at nearly every turn include the Explorer, a

WINDOWS 95

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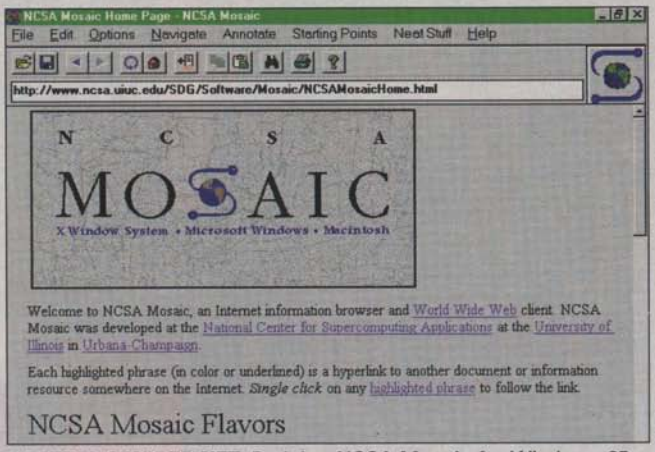
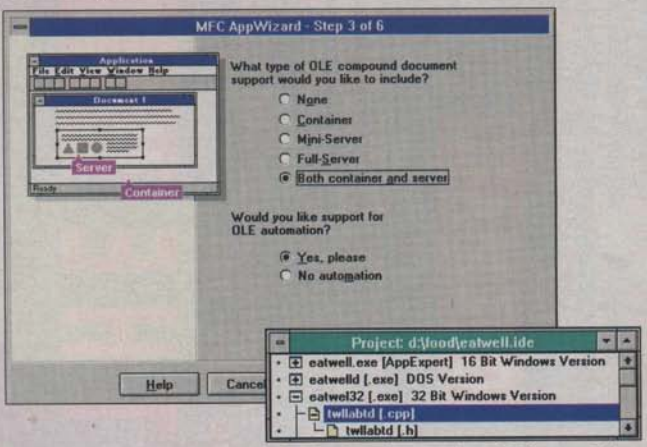
chameleon-like file-management tool, and shortcut menus that pop up with a right-click for instant access to common commands.



CASTING A WIDER NET: Redoing NCSA Mosaic for Windows 95 was a snap, say its developers, because the program was already written in 32-bit code. The de facto standard for navigating the World Wide Web should be easier to set up with the built-in TCP/IP support of Windows 95.



FROM C TO SHINING C: Borland's C++ (bottom) and Microsoft's Visual C++ (top) lets developers crank out 32-bit Windows 95 applications in record time. Borland lets developers use the same code base for 16- and 32-bit versions, while Microsoft's Wizard adds instant OLE support.

What's inside the new user interface? And what can you expect to find inside your upgraded applications when you see the Windows 95 logo on the box? Here's a partial list.

It's a document-centric world. The architects of Windows 95 want you to stop thinking of the program that created a document and simply think of the document itself. Support for long filenames is a must, and to manage those files you'll use the new common dialog boxes that appear in response to File Open and File Save commands.

One of the most subtle indications of the shift to a document-centric world appears in the title bar, where the new style guidelines dictate that the name of the document must appear first, followed by the name of the program that created it.

If the document's extension is registered, the Windows 95 default is to hide the extension, and Windows 95-compatible applications have to do that as well, in the shell, in title bars and dialog boxes, and with icons.

Use an INI file, go to jail? There's no ambiguity in the Windows 95 application guidelines: your preferences must be stored in the Registry, a more-or-less central store that theoretically allows you to log in from any workstation, anywhere on the network, and

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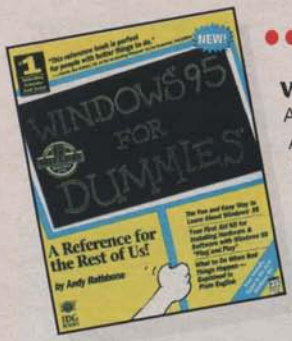

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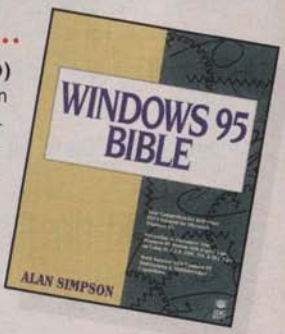

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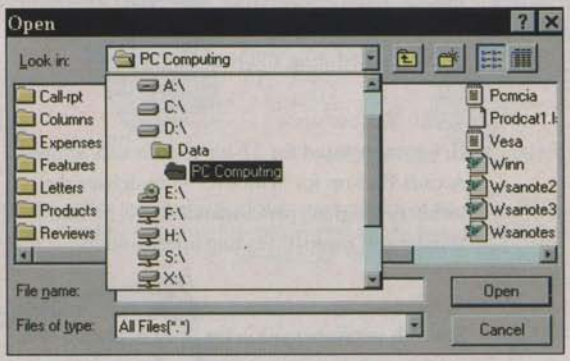
NEW FACES: THE STRIKING SIMILARITIES ARE NO ACCIDENT

If the "flying Windows" logo is on the box, it means that the application follows Microsoft's user-interface style guidelines, including support for long filenames and use of the new **common dialog boxes** for opening and saving files (below). Other user-interface features that are either mandatory or strongly recommended under the logo program: extended **property sheets** that store custom file information, **shortcut menus** that pop up with a single right-click, and preferences that are saved in the **Registry** rather than in countless INI files.



Common Dialog Boxes: The new File Open and Save dialog boxes let you right-click on any file or drive icon to add a new folder, delete or rename an existing file,or quickly view a file's contents. These common dialog boxes are a variation of the Explorer, which appears throughout Windows 95.

Property Sheets: Any application can register a file type and add its own tabbed pages to the properties for the files it creates. For example, summary information added to Microsoft Word and Excel documents shows up when you right-click on the file.

Shortcut Menus: Context-sensitive menus that pop up with a single right-click are "strongly recommended" under the interface guidelines. Our prediction: most applications will support the new menus.

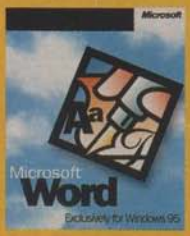
Registry: Preserving the configuration of your Windows 3.1 applications can be a nightmare, with stray bits of information deposited in WIN.INI, SYSTEM.INI, and private INI files. Well-behaved Windows 95 applications write this information to the Registry instead. In addition to easier uninstallation, it gives network users the ability to preserve their preferences even if they log in from another workstation.

see your familiar desktop. Any software developer that uses INI files instead of the Registry does not pass Go, and most certainly does not collect the Windows logo. The guidelines are also clear when it comes to removing an application. Windows 95 includes a Control Panel applet that lets you uninstall an application and clean up the Registry.

The rest of the test. Document-centricity is a baby step on the road to compound documents that consist of data from everywhere, so it's not surprising that support for object linking and embedding (OLE 2.0) is also on the mandatory list. You can expect your Windows 95 applications to recognise universal naming convention filenames — prefaced by server names rather than drive letters. And every File menu must have at least simple Send Mail Capability.

Other elements in the Windows 95 style guidelines are strongly recommended but not mandatory, and the rules for utilities, development tools and games are slightly relaxed. With those notable exceptions, you can expect the first wave of Windows 95 software to be remarkably consistent.

The last Word on WINDOWS 95



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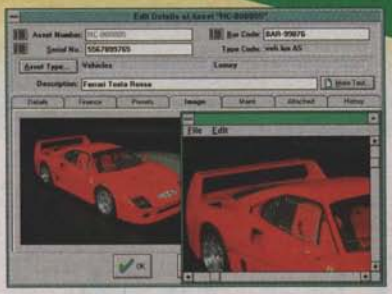

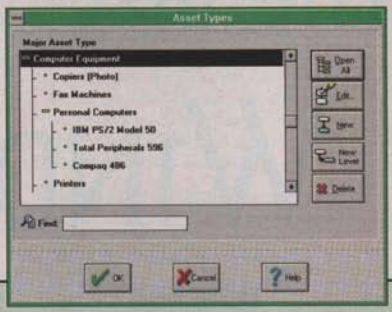

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John Hilvert, The Australian, 24 January 1995.

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Moving to Windows 95 was the right thing to do. Now you have the ability to run multiple programs. A friendlier graphical user interface. Longer file names. Greater productivity.

Keeping a lid on potential problems is the next thing to do. System protection and data recovery tools will enable you to take better care of your data and your computer.

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Because of file structure changes, current Windows and DOS utilities will not run on Windows 95. And even though Windows 95 provides many improvements over Windows 3.1, it does not provide a comprehensive utility solution.

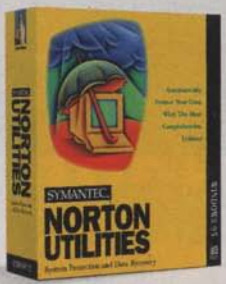
You'll need to look to Symantec to give you the level of security and functionality to which you are accustomed.

Trust Your Data to Norton – From Day One

Symantec's Peter Norton Group, the leading utilities software provider of the past decade, has developed a range of utilities specifically for Windows 95.

These include Norton Utilities, Norton AntiVirus and Norton Navigator.

Together, these utility programs give you the security, protection and file-management tools you need to make your Windows 95 experience the best it can be.



Norton Utilities – The only automated Windows 95 data recovery and system protection solution.

Protect Your Data Automatically

Norton Utilities for Windows 95 is based on the award winning technology of previous versions – but with special enhancements. Such as Norton System Doctor, which runs in the back-

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Norton Utilities gives you the most advanced, comprehensive tools for system protection and data recovery. True 32-bit utilities that complement the performance of Windows 95.

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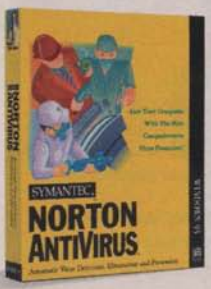

Norton AntiVirus – Detects, destroys and prevents more viruses than any other antivirus product.

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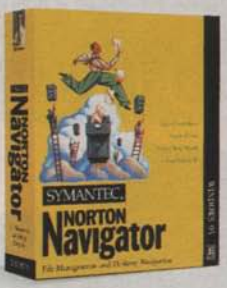

Norton Navigator – Guaranteed to make file management and working with Windows 95 faster and easier.

Norton Navigator lets you open any folder or work with any file, with a single mouse click. It lets you compress or decompress files, simply by dragging and dropping. You can even find or move a file – almost instantly.

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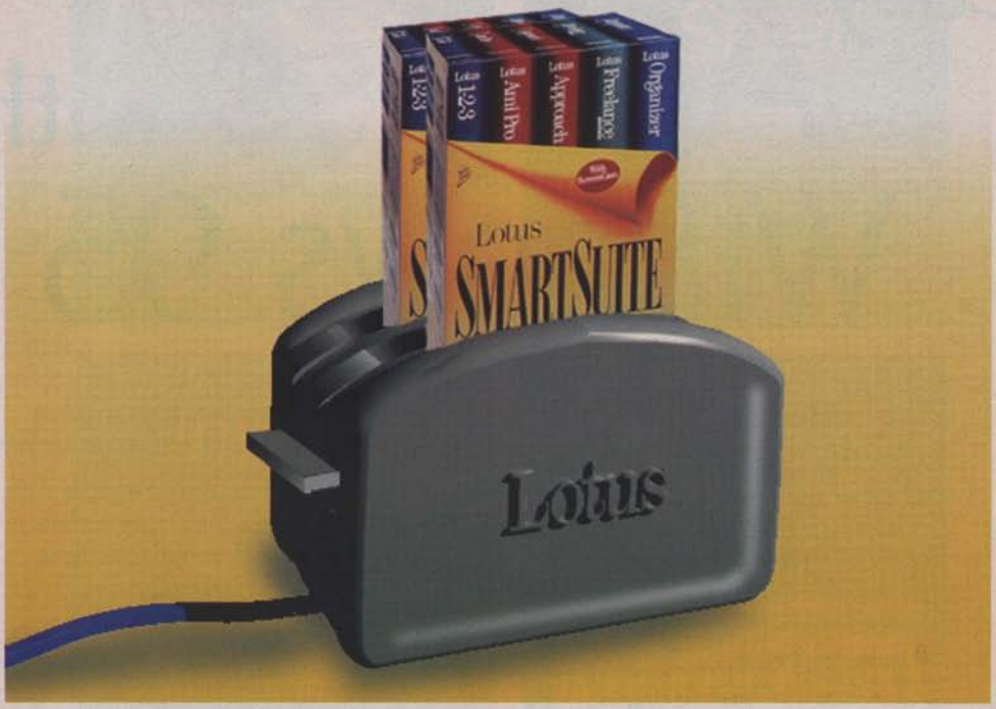

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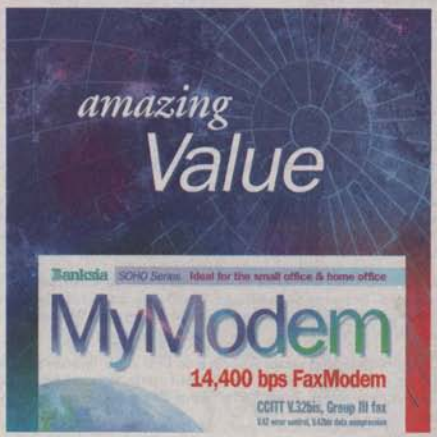

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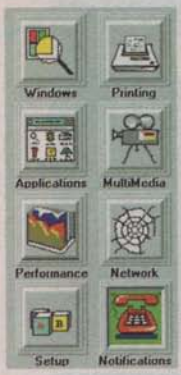

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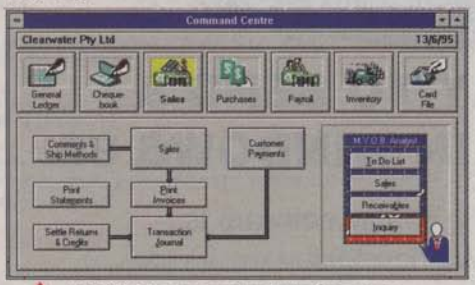

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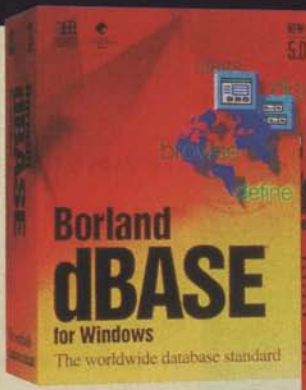
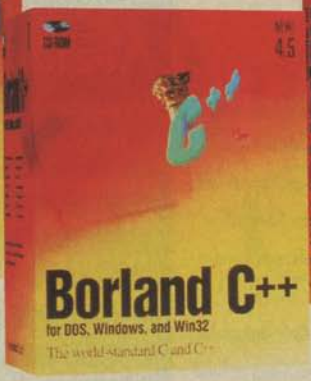
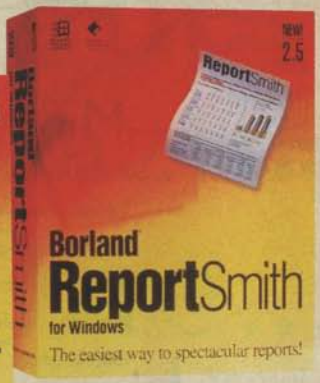
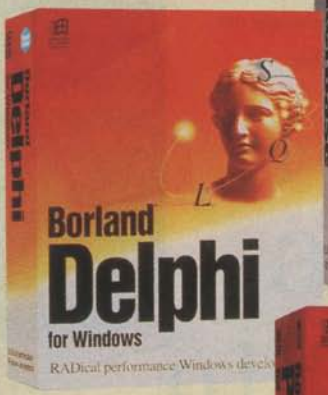
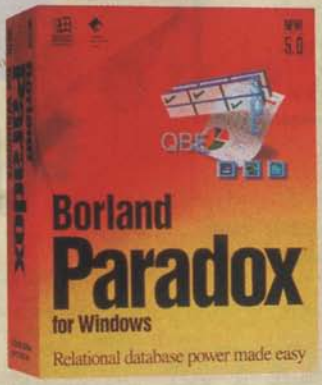






It's nice when the family gets together, especially now that we are designed to allow smooth transition to Windows 95 with minimal need to reprogram or rebuild applications. And that means savings all round ... when the family gets together.





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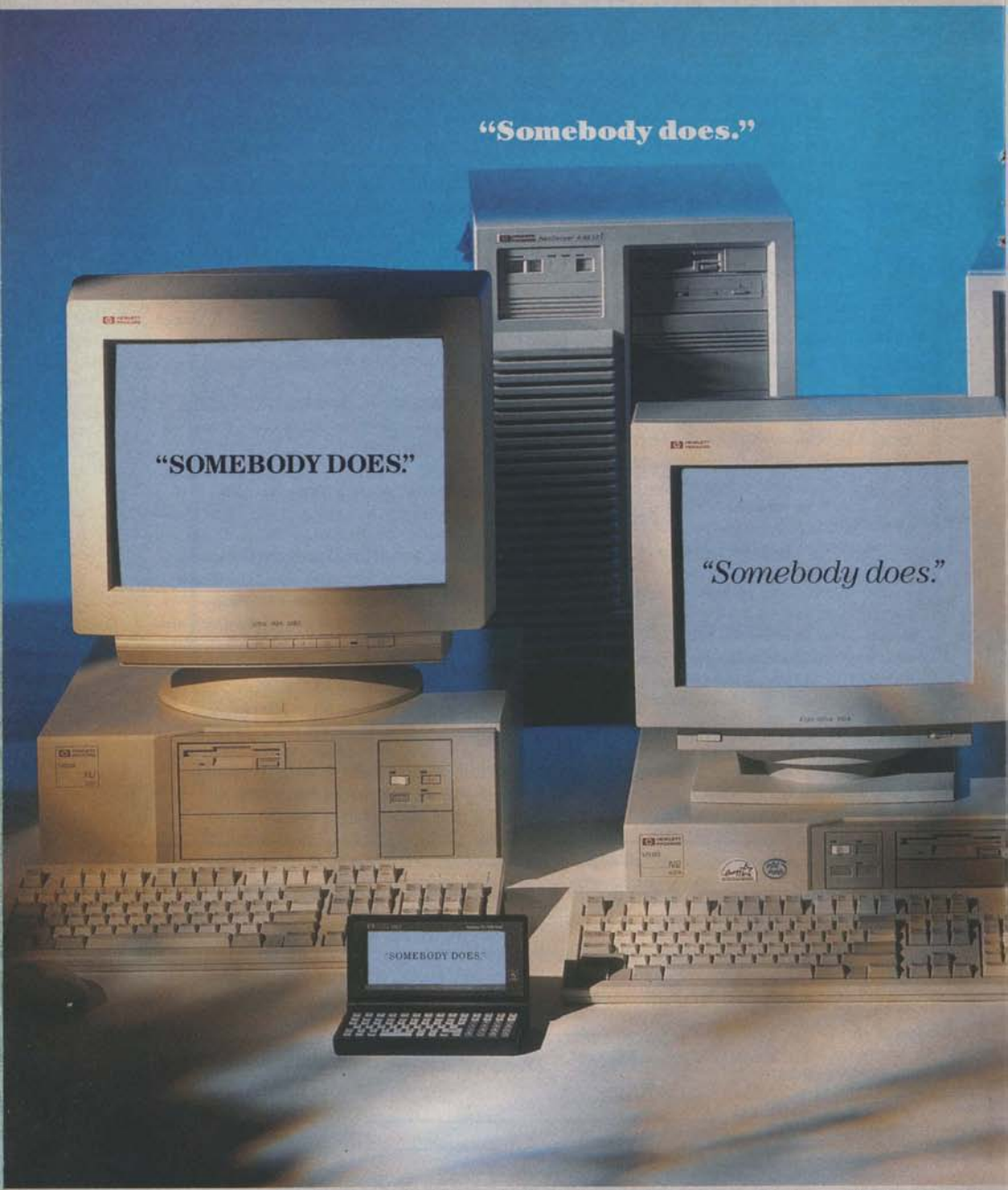

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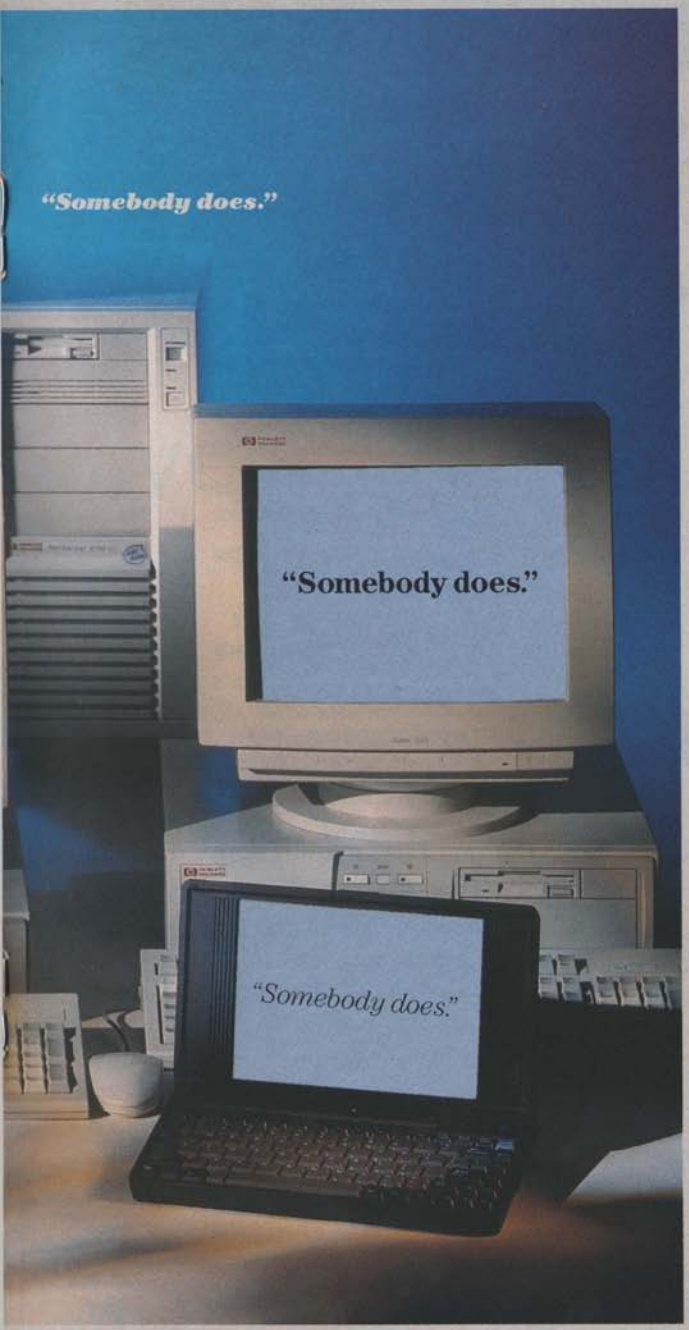

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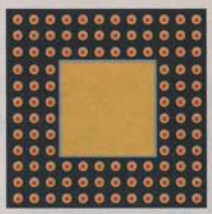
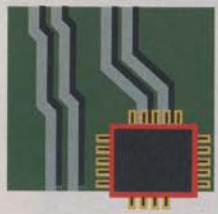


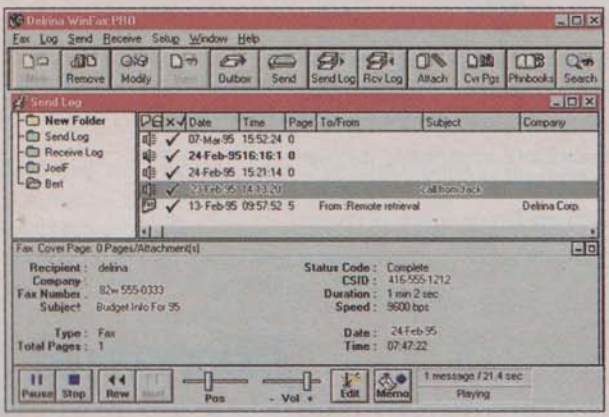


BIOS: For notebooks with docking stations, a Plug-and-Play BIOS lets you dock and undock at will, reestablishing connections to networks and desktop devices on the fly without requiring that you hit the suspend switch or reboot.

Operating System: Apple fans can argue that the Mac is the original Plug-and-Play platform, but Windows 95 is the first true Plug-and-Play operating system for the PC. The key is Windows 95's capability to maintain a central database of all hardware installed, even if it's not currently available.

Peripherals: Not all Plug-and-Play devices are created equal. The ideal peripheral is an SCSI adapter, network interface, or sound card whose resources can be reassigned from the Control Panel. Many non-Plug-and-Play boards can be identified by the operating system, but their configuration depends on jumpers or dip switches.

Applications: Plug-and-Play-aware applications are one notch smarter than the average application. A Plug-and-Play-aware application can work with Windows 95 to deal intelligently with configuration changes — for example, by asking whether you want to save an open file to the network server before your notebook's network connection disappears.



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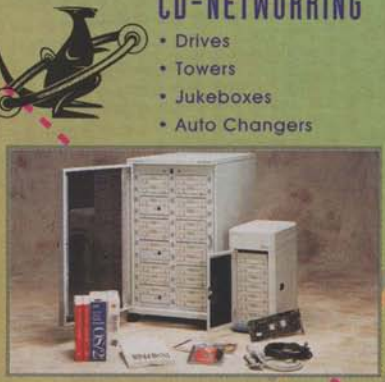

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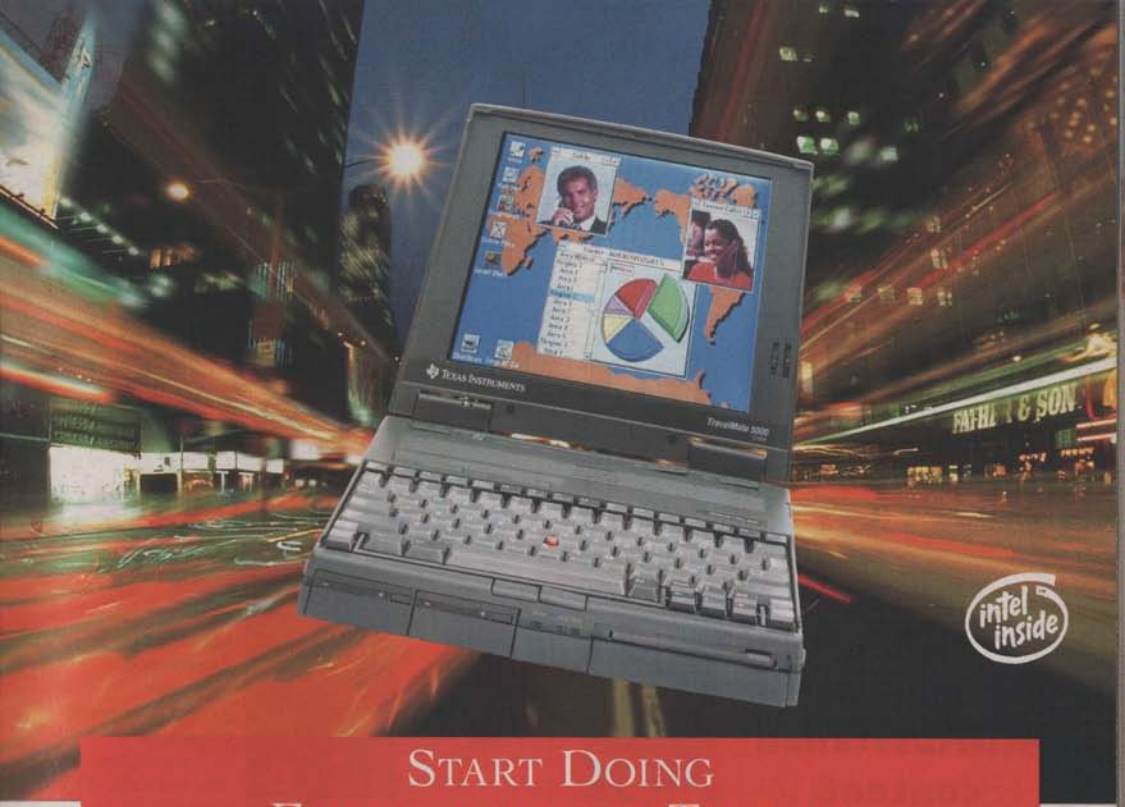

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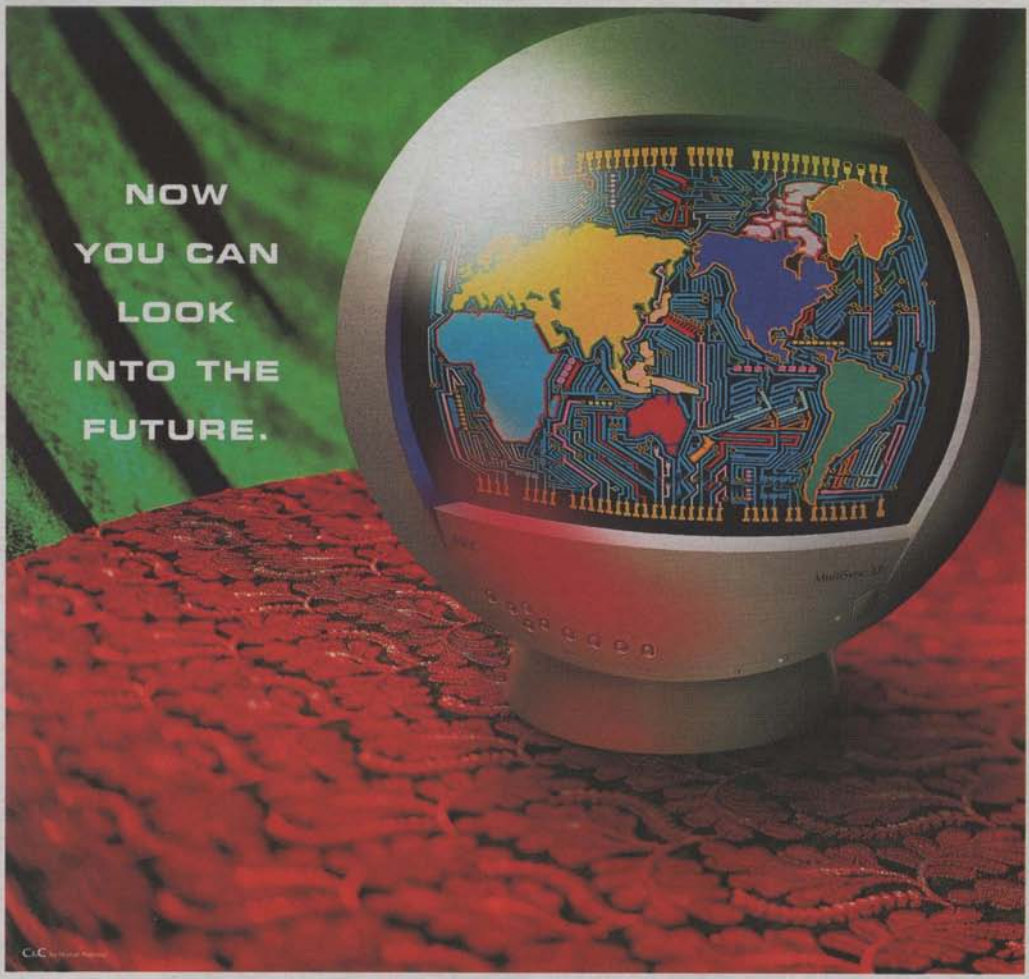

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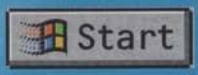

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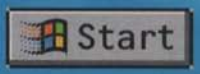

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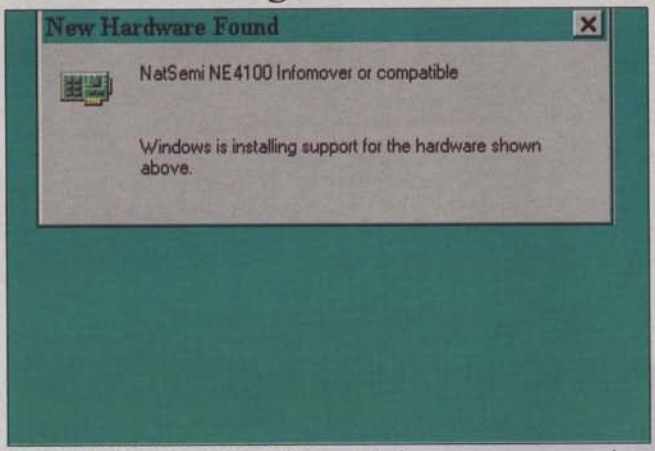
PLUG-AND PLAY DEVICES

How WIN95 Makes It Easy

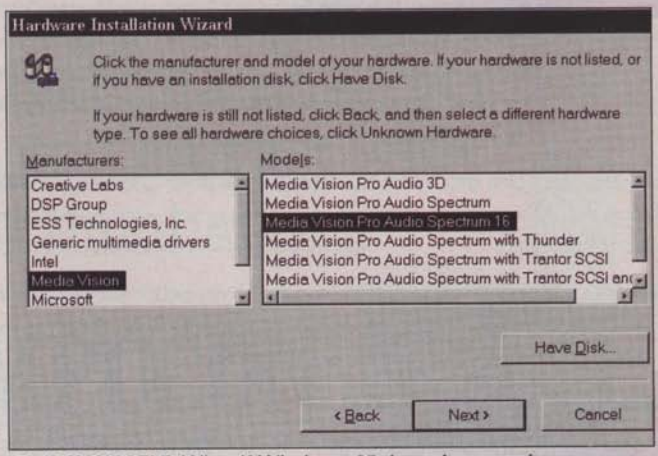
Jumpers, dip switches, IRQ conflicts, and the dreaded CONFIG.SYS. This is the stuff that nightmares — and Apple commercials — are made of. So what if you woke up one day and discovered it had all been just a bad dream? That you could plug in a printer, sound board, CD-ROM drive, or PC Card and it would literally configure itself? Only a dreamer would say that Plug and Play will work perfectly every time, but our early experience has been positive.

Desktop systems: Plug and Play's real power is its ability to automatically configure a device. If you've ever had to set jumpers or dip switches to resolve IRQ conflicts, this one's for you: true Plug-and-Play devices don't use jumpers. Windows 95 will reset the DMA, base memory address, even IRQ settings. Current offerings of Plug-and-Play boards include Future Domain's PNP-1630 (an ISA SCSI controller), Media Vision's Pro 3-D sound card, and Advanced Micro Devices' PCnet ISA+, a no-fuss ethernet card.

Portables: A Plug-and Play BIOS means a completely new way to work



INSTANT RECOGNITION: Add a new device to your system — in this case, a network adapter in the PC Card format — and Windows 95 senses the change and loads appropriate drivers. Remove the device, and the drivers are dynamically unloaded to free up memory for applications.



DO IT YOURSELF: What if Windows 95 doesn't recognise a new device? Configure it manually using the Hardware Installation Wizard. Pick from built-in lists or add a new device using drivers on a floppy disk. If it's not a Plug-and-Play device, you may have to deal with IRQs and the like.

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CENTRAL MANAGEMENT: Want an inventory of all the hardware in a given system? The System Device Manager is the window into the Registry's collection of hardware-related information. The bright-red X means the second mouse driver is installed but not currently active.

with mobile computers. Say your docking station provides the connection to your network. Without Plug and Play, when you remove the notebook from the docking station, you first have to save your work, then put the system in "sleep" mode. When you power it on again, you need to reconfigure the system so that it doesn't look for the network. When you plug it back in, you have to reconnect to the network.

The scenario is simpler with a Plug-and-Play notebook. When you press the Eject button on the docking station, the BIOS alerts the operating system that you're about to disconnect; the operating system informs your open application, and you see a dialog box asking if you want to save first. Next, the system unloads the unnecessary network driver and gracefully breaks the network connection. Plug the notebook back in, and the network driver reloads automatically, then re-establishes the network connection. Some notebooks that have the SystemSoft Plug-and-Play BIOS are Hewlett-Packard's OmniBook 600PC and 4000PC, and Digital Equipment Corp's HiNote and HiNote Ultra. Using the same principle, you can also print a document when you're on

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NATURAL RESOURCES: Windows 95 handles resources more intelligently than DOS or earlier versions of Windows. The Resources tab on each device's properties sheet identifies IRQs used, DMA settings, and I/O addresses. Conflicts show up in the box at the bottom of the dialog box.

the road, away from your printer. The operating system will graciously defer the print job until you plug the notebook back in to the docking station, at which point it will start printing automatically.

Peripherals: A few devices, available today, will change the way you work. For instance, when you insert a PC Card into a socket, the system auto-senses it, informs you that a new device is in place, then configures itself and informs the running applications of the new presence. Some of the PC Cards already available are 3Com's EtherLink III net adapter, Xircom's CreditCard Ethernet+Modem II, and Maxtor's MobileMax Type III hard drive, which provides 262MB of storage in a single slot.

With a bidirectional parallel port, your Plug-and-Play printer (such as any member of HP's LaserJet 4 family) can easily communicate with your system. Two Plug-and-Play mice are already available: Logitech's Mouse-Man Sensa and the Microsoft Mouse. Add a Plug-and-Play monitor, such as one from NEC'S MultiSync XP line, and Windows 95 will identify it — resolution, refresh rate, and all.

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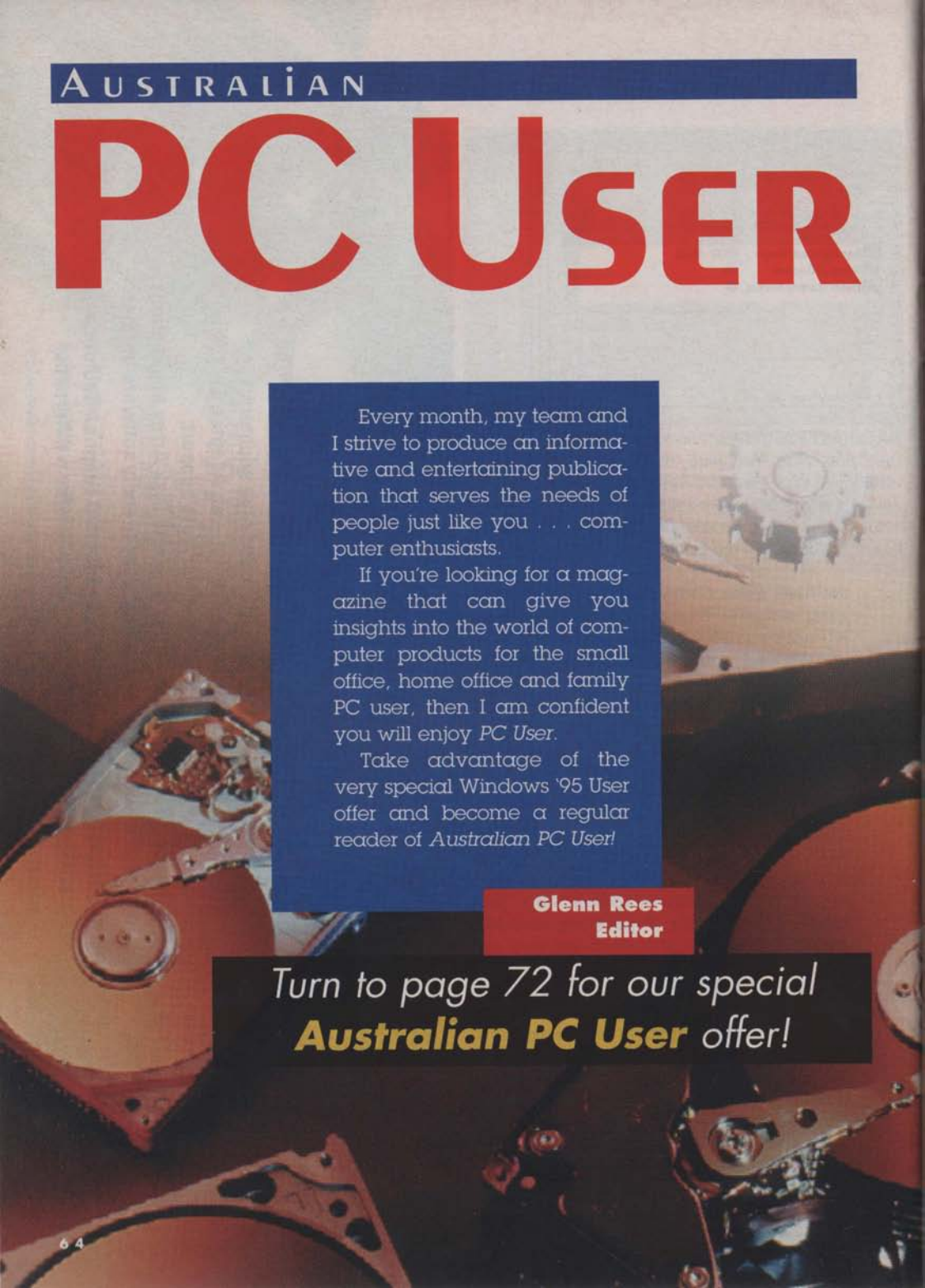

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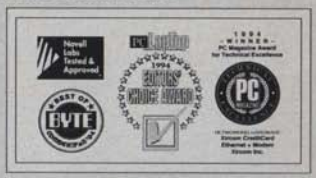

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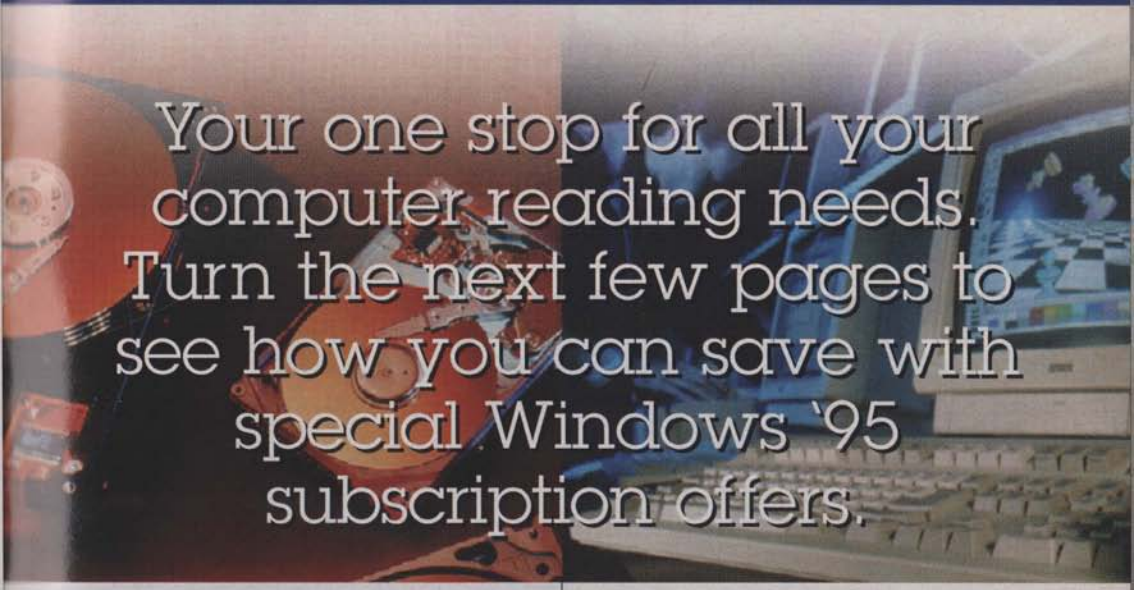

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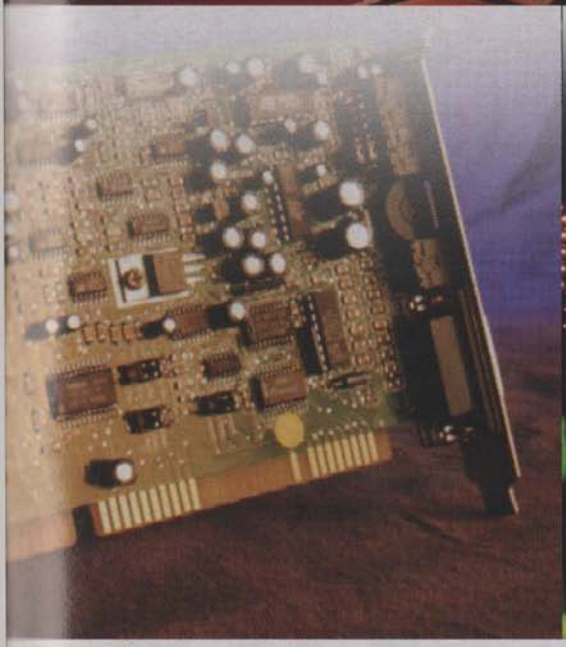

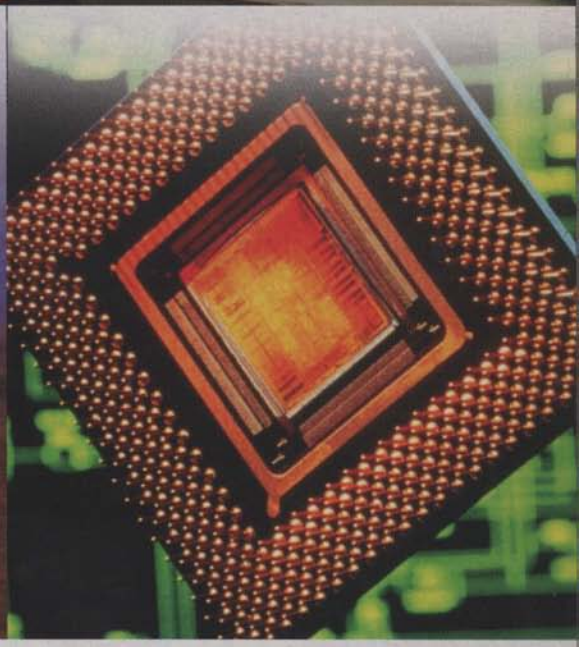

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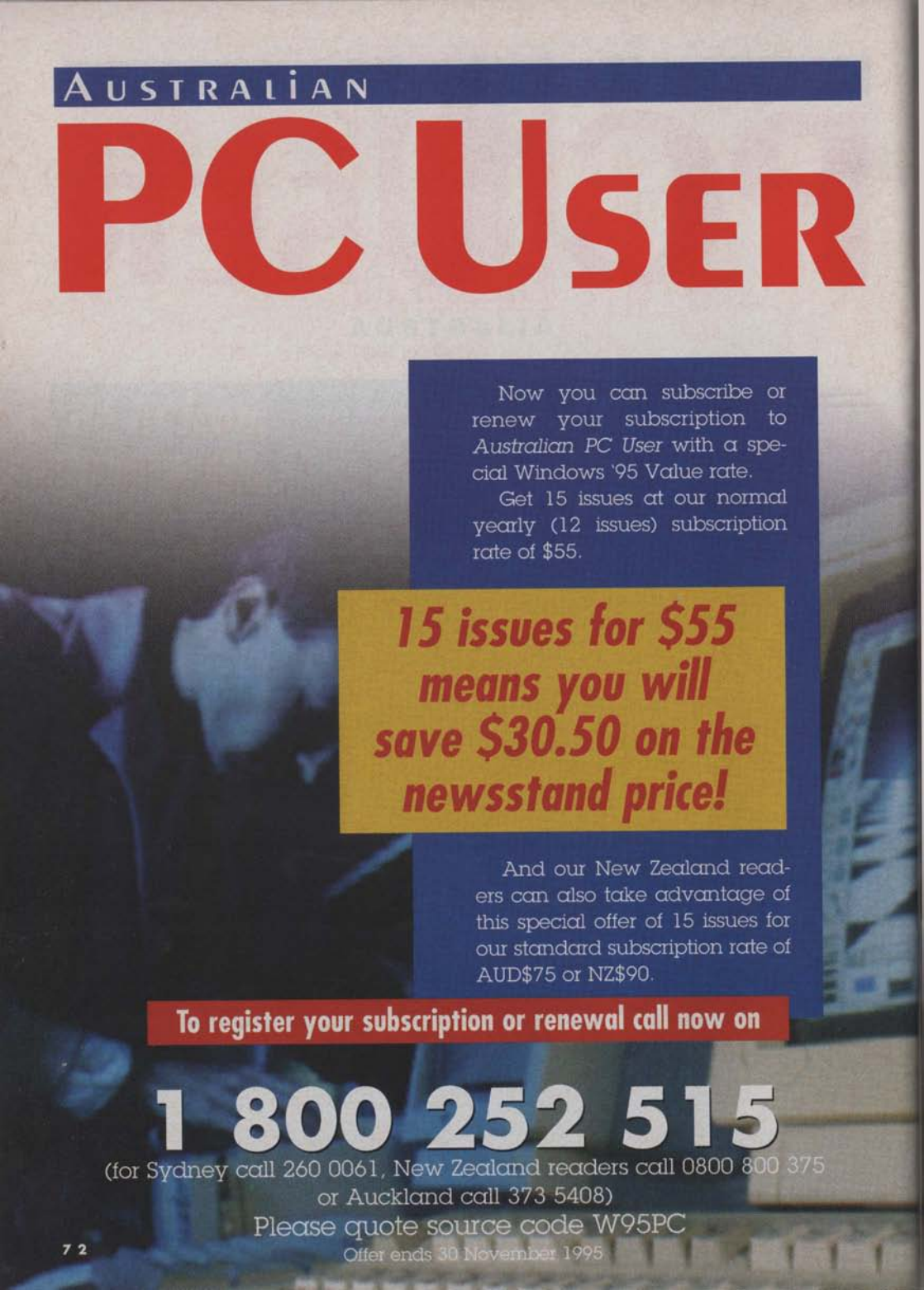
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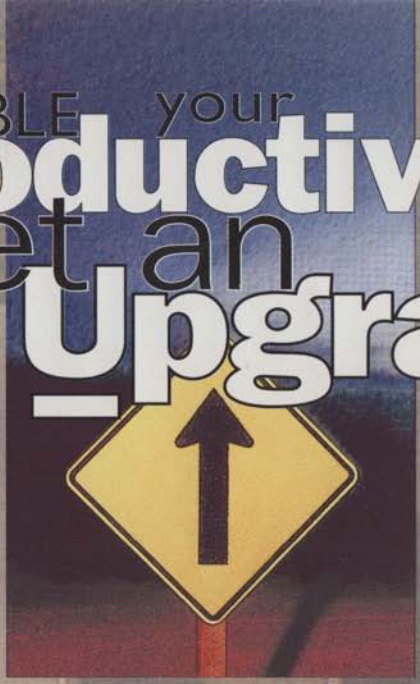

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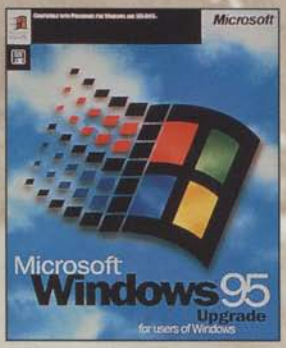

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